

FROM: AMEMBASSY, BELGRADE 1012 April 26, 1952
TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REF: Embassy's Despatch No. 421, October 29, 1951
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC.

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The Yugoslav press has recently broken several months of silence with respect to the extradition trial of Andrija ARTUKOVIC as evidenced by the publication of two letters to the editor of BORBA and his subsequent reply. On March 30, the letter of Todor KASEVSKI, Captain of the Yugoslav People's Army, requesting information as to the current status of the proceedings, was published and on April 10 a letter signed "O.K." repeated this request.

Apparently bowing to public demand, BORBA of April 19 published a detailed resume of the proceedings, which stated, inter alia, that "some Catholic organizations in the USA" and "certain circles" described as having "limitless financial assets" are supporting Artukovic.

The final paragraph of the BORBA answer concludes that the "present course of action, the artful dodging of legal provisions and misconstruing its essence and aims, as well as belittling the just demand of a people who have seriously suffered because of the crimes committed by those who today are being protected by some American circles; this does not serve the reputation of a country like America, nor the reputation of its law".

Since the BORBA "Letters to the Editor" is generally regarded as being anything but the recipient of spontaneous contributions from public spirited citizens, the question arises as to the reason for resurrecting the issue at this particular time. It is possible that the correspondence is designed to remind the Yugoslavs, particularly Party members, that the government has not lost interest, and does not want them to lose interest in the extradition proceedings. It is also possible that the issue is raised to satisfy Serb nationalistic feelings, not only here, but especially among

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the Serb groups in the United States, by showing them that the crimes reportedly committed against them and their families will not go unpunished, and that the TITO government will satisfy their desire to see that justice be done.

Jacob D. Beam
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Charge d'Affaires a.i.

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